

Superior Court of California  
County of Santa Clara



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**Statement of Santa Clara County Superior Court Presiding Judge and  
Chair of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee Hon.  
Brian C. Walsh on Judicial Branch Budget FY 2014-15**

"The Budget for FY 2014-15, which has been sent to the Governor for signature is, for the trial courts, a great disappointment.

Though there is a modest augmentation of funding for various aspects of the Judicial Branch, only \$129 million is allocated to increase funding for trial court operations (see breakdown below of the Branch allocations). Because the trial courts needed \$262 simply break even with the difficult budget of Fiscal Year 2013-14, this means we are left \$133 million short of the amount necessary to preserve the current level of services to the public.

Despite rising state revenues, life just became substantially harder for millions of Californians. Unfortunately, this budget will certainly lead to more courtroom closures, longer lines, and greater delays in obtaining vital court orders.

In Santa Clara County, the reduced funding caused by this budget will mean our Court will be forced to close courtrooms, cut resources in our Self-Help Centers and in Family Court mediations, and reduce services in the Clerk's Office – where lines will be longer and delays in obtaining court orders will be increased. The harm to the public's access to justice will be as pronounced as it is unavoidable.

We want to thank those many people who supported adequate funding for the trial courts. I hope they will continue to work with us ceaselessly until we can obtain funding at a level that will allow all Californians to have equal access to justice. We are not there yet, but we owe it to the citizens we serve to never give up the fight."

**Of the \$223 Million Appropriated to the Judicial Branch  
In the 2014-2015 Budget  
Only \$129.1 Million Is Allocated to Local Trial Court Operations**

<b>Trial court operations</b>	<b>\$ 129.1</b>
Court construction (one-time)	40.0
Backfill deficit in trial court trust fund	30.9
Collaborative courts	15.0
Appellate and state level costs	7.24
Security (goes to counties)	1.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 223.24</b>

(in millions)

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